

APRIL 7.

Mr. THEODORE D. RAND in the chair.

Fifty-three persons present.

Papers under the following titles were presented for publication :—
Mexican Grasses: An enumeration of the Grasses collected by
Mr. C. G. Pringle in Mexico in 1890. By F. Lamson Scribner.

Mineral Localities of Philadelphia and Vicinity. By Theodore
D. Rand, William W. Jefferis and J. T. M. Cardeza, M. D.

APRIL 14.

The President, Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-five persons present.

A paper entitled "Note on Mesozoic Mammalia," by O. C. Marsh, was presented for publication.

The deaths of Mr. Aubrey H. Smith, member, on the 14th and
Mr. A. Sydney Biddle, member, on the 9th inst. were announced.

APRIL 21.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

The death of Mr. P. W. Sheaffer, a member, March 26, was
announced.

Pedomorphism.—DR. HARRISON ALLEN spoke of the disposition occasionally exhibited in adult mammals, for the proportions of different parts of the body to remain as they were in the immature individuals. He claimed for this peculiarity that it is not due to arrest of growth but to the fact that certain parts preserve the peculiarities of the young: thus, for example, among the bats, the so-called species *V. lucifugus* exhibits a number of characteristics which are found in the immature animal and which are the same in kind as those that exist in an individual which in every other respect answers to the description of the adult. In young bats, the foot and thumb are apt to be large as compared with the same parts in the adult, at the same time that the auricle and tragus are correspondingly small and the snout high, blunt and nearly naked. The parts often so remain. Dr. Allen proposed for this peculiarity the term *pedomorphism*. "V.

lucifugus” becomes a pedomorphic variety of *V. subulatus*. It might be expected that pedomorphic varieties closely resemble each other when the same disposition is exhibited in closely allied species. It is almost impossible to distinguish the pedomorphic variety of *V. subulatus* from that of *V. nitidus*; or, to express it differently, the “*V. lucifugus*” from the range of *V. subulatus* is an almost identical form with the “*V. lucifugus*” from the range of *V. nitidus*. Some species exhibit the disposition to retain pedomorphic variation to a greater degree than others, and it is held to be probably true that the existence of this disposition to so remarkable a degree in the North American species of *Vespertilio* accounts for the great confusion which has existed in this genus.—Writers imply by their language that there is but one kind of variation, namely, the geographical. It is an advantage to recognize two kinds, namely, the pedomorphic and the geographical.

APRIL 28.

Dr. GEORGE H. HORN in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

The following were elected members :

John Arschaggoni, M. D., Robert P. Morton, Witmer Stone and Edwin Corlies Atkinson.

Charler Otis Whitman of Worcester, was elected a correspondent.

The following were ordered to be printed :—